

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

MATHESON, Jim (Democrat)  
Representative, 2nd District, Utah  
Elected 2000 to 107th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congress



### BACKGROUND

Born: Salt Lake City, Utah -- 21 March 1960

Home: Salt Lake City

Marital status: Married (Amy) - one child

Religion: Mormon

Education: Harvard Univ., B.A., 1982; Univ. of California, Los Angeles, M.B.A., 1987

Military: None

Profession: Energy consulting firm owner; energy company project manager; environmental group advocate

Political: No elected office prior to entering the US House of Representatives. Defeated Derek W. Smith (R) with 67% of the vote to succeed Rep Merrill Cook (R), who was defeated in the primary. Reelected in 2002 with 49% of the vote in an extremely tight race with John Swallow (R), a prominent member of the Utah House who also received 49% of the vote.

Rep Matheson avoided identifying himself as a Democrat while campaigning, instead pointing out that he was a fiscal conservative. Supports paying down the debt and using a portion of the surplus to shore up Social Security and Medicare. Hopes to provide reasonable tax relief where it is needed the most.

In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, expressed support for the US involvement in the War on Terrorism and an associated short term limited increase in the Federal debt limit, but urged fiscal responsibility and called for a reassessment of the Federal budget. Co-sponsored 'concurrent receipt' resolution and a resolution calling for the restoration of health care coverage for retired members of the uniformed services. Voted against HJ Res 87, calling for the establishment of a radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel disposal site at Yucca Mountain, NV, which subsequently passed the House and Senate. Assumes appointed position as Assistant Minority Whip in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Additional: His wife is a pediatrician. He started The Matheson Group in 1998, which helped companies improve energy efficiency. During college, worked as a congressional intern for the Speaker of the House. A member of the 'Blue Dog Coalition.' Son of the late Democratic Gov Scott M. Matheson, who served two terms from 1977-1985.

AF Bases: Salt Lake City (ANG)

### COMMITTEES

#### BUDGET

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE -- Subcs on Aviation; Highway & Transit

SCIENCE -- Subcs on Energy; Environment, Technology, and Standards